



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

March 9, 2010

**Los Angeles County
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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.
Interim Director

SUBJECT: **REVISED REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR PHYSICIAN
SERVICES FOR INDIGENTS PROGRAM (PSIP)**

On February 16, 2010, your Board authorized the Interim Director of Health Services (DHS) to reduce the initial reimbursement rate for PSIP to 18% of the Official County Fee Schedule (OCFS) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10 and offer revised emergency physician services agreements for FY 2009-10 to eligible non-County physicians providing emergency services at non-County emergency hospitals. In addition, your Board instructed DHS to rapidly pay the backlog of frozen claims; and to report progress weekly until the backlog is gone.

PSIP ENROLLMENT AND CLAIMS PROCESSING CURRENT STATUS

Following Board approval of the FY 2009-10 reimbursement rate on February 16, 2010, the enrollment packets were updated and made available to all eligible physicians on February 17, 2010. Physicians can now submit claims for July to November 2009 dates of service. Since the program requires that providers attempt to identify other sources of payment for 90 days prior to billing the County, services provided from December 2009 to February 2010 are not yet billable to the program. The Emergency Medical Services Agency is working with the County's contracted claims adjudicator, American Insurance Administrators (AIA), to expedite the enrollment process. After the annual enrollment, submitted claims will be adjudicated and paid expeditiously. Based on historical experience, the physicians will complete the enrollment process and the first claims will be received 30-60 days from the beginning of the enrollment period.

REVIEW OF THE PSIP PROGRAM POLICIES

On March 4, 2010, the Department discussed the PSIP Program funding cut, reimbursement rate reduction, and the current policies with the Hospitals and Healthcare Delivery Commission for review and input. The Commission will submit their comments and recommendations on the program to the Auditor Controller's Office.

To continue the operational review, the PSIP program has been placed on the agenda of the Emergency Medical Services Commission for the March 17, 2010 meeting.

I will keep you informed about the ongoing enrollment and claims payment process. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact me or Carol Meyer, Chief Network Officer at (213) 240-8370.

JFS:CC
1002:005

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chief Executive Office
Auditor-Controller
Emergency Medical Services Commission
Hospitals and Health Care Delivery Commission